

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 10, 2003

A meeting of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education was held at the Shepard Building - 255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903 and convened at 5:12 p.m.

Attendees:

J. DiPrete, J. Gaines, C. Callahan, S. Duff, G. Grove, F. Caprio

Public Remarks

There were none.

Chairman's Remarks

There were none

Approval of Minutes of the Board of Regents Meeting of March 27, 2003

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, the Board of Regents Approved the minutes of the March 27, 2003 meeting as presented

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Approval of Waiver to Middle School Certification

RIDE Assistant Commissioner David Abbot introduced to the Board the request from the Coventry School Department.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That, The Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the Request of the Coventry School Department to Waive the Certification Requirements (for two years) for Elementary Teachers who are Interested in Teaching Sixth Grade in a Middle School, as Recommended by the Board of Regents' School Administrator and Teacher Quality and Support Committee.

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

Update on PS&I/Accountability

Commissioner Peter McWalters updated the Board regarding RIDE's current status in the ongoing Accountability Review Process by the federal government. The Commissioner stated that the department has been working to clear up any outstanding issues and could get approval within the next week. The Commissioner also discussed the next steps that would follow approval. There will be further updates at the next meeting.

Budget Update

The Commissioner informed the Board that the department has responded to questions from the House Finance Committee, but we have not yet had our hearing. Revenue decisions are still being discussed. The Senate Hearing is scheduled for April 21, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Reports

Administrator & Teacher Quality Committee –Chairman of the Regents' School Administrator and Teacher Quality & Support Committee, Jo Eva Gaines deferred to Assistant Commissioner David V. Abbott to report an update on the ongoing work of the committee. Mr. Abbot announced that on Friday April 11, 2003 there will be a joint meeting of the Regents' sub-committee on School Administrator and Teacher Quality and Support Committee with the Policy Consortium at the Department of Higher Education to discuss issues relating to the definition of a highly qualified teacher. A plan to accomplish this definition is due to the federal government on September 1, 2003.

Commissioner McWalters told the group that this an opportunity to work collaboratively to adopt a shared point of entry to define appropriate performance measures for tenured teachers.

High School Restructuring Committee –Chairman of the sub-committee Colleen Callahan reported that a brief meeting was held last week that began the discussion about what advice should be offered to school districts to assist them with the guidance they have received regarding compliance issues. The department has sent out directions for their status reports for this year, but there needs to be additional guidance regarding literacy, graduation proficiency and high school restructuring. Middle school reform is also an important component of this discussion

Regent Callahan also reported that she attended a meeting of the Office of Instruction at RIDE on Wednesday to discuss issues that connect the high school reform agenda to an integrated K-12 literacy agenda. A further discussion is scheduled for the next regular meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2003.

Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner McWalters reported that the federal competitive RFP's have been released and are out.
- He reminded the Board that this is the last week of for legislation to come out of their respective committees at the general assembly. Teacher and Para-professional testing legislation seems to be moving along as expected. The issue of testing all teachers is once again before the legislature, Assistant Commissioner David Abbott said that there is compromise language being discussed that would help to support us in the furtherance of our teacher quality issues. Charter school and bullying legislation are both items still pending that need to be followed closely.
- The Commissioner also announced that the Director of Human Resource Development, Paula Rossi, will be serving on Governor Carcieri's 'Big Audit' of state departments. This will require her to work with other key staff, and although the role she has here is integral to the work of the department, she is highly qualified to serve in this capacity.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session

Adjournment

With unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.